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NSC BRIEFING

19 January 1959

BULGARIA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- I. A serious factional fight reportedly occurred during a Bulgarian party central committee meeting in December over a proposal to include Chinese features in Bulgaria's economic program.
 - A. The proposal was made by one-time party boss Stalinist Chervenkov, possibly in a bid to place himself in control of internal policy.
 - B. The move was opposed by the more moderate, Soviet-backed party leader Zhivkov.
 - C. Recently announced decisions of a mid-January central committee plenum suggest Zhivkov's policies may have won out, although the question may still be under discussion.
- II. The official line in European Satellites on China's communes has for most part been to follow the Soviet lead and to deny the applicability of the commune system in Eastern Europe.
 - A. Indications are, however, that under the surface the commune question has played a significant role in factional fighting between Khrushchev-backed moderates and die-hard Stalinists, in at least some of the Satellite parties.
 1. For example, recently published minutes of a Polish central committee plenum held in October indicate that the Stalinist Natolin factions used Chinese example to support their own criticism of Gomulka's moderate internal line.

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